DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 148 447 JC 780 070

AUTHOR Kirby, Emily B.
TITLE Fifteen Most Heavily Enrolled Baccalaureate Courses, Fall 1975--Spring 1977. Report #1, 1077.
INSTITUTION Oakton Community Coll., Morton Grove, Ill.
PUB DATE 29 Oct 77
NOTE 38p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$2.06 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Community Colleges; Core Courses; *Courses; *Enrollment Trends; *General Education; Grades (Scholastic); *Grading; Institutional Research; *Junior Colleges; Science Courses; Social Sciences; Transfer Programs

ABSTRACT

A four semester examination of the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses at Oakton Community College (Illinois) for fall, 1975 through spring, 1977, revealed consistently heavy enrollments in the social sciences and general education core courses in communications. Science and math enrollments accounted for less than 15% of the total each semester. In each semester, the 15 most heavily enrolled courses accounted for 35-40% of total enrollment. Grade distributions of the 19 most heavily enrolled courses which appeared on the semester lists varied widely, with some courses consistently "easy" (combined A/B grades) and others "hard" (C or less). C grades were underused throughout. The document contains tables which contain course titles ranked in descending order, and letter grades awarded with percentages for each semester as well as the two year period. (Author/RT)

****
* Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished *
* materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort *
* to obtain the best copy available. Nevertheless, items of marginal *
* reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality *
* of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available *
* via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not *
* responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions *
* supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. *
****

ED148447

Report #1, 1077

Fifteen Most Heavily Enrolled Baccalaureate Courses Fall, 1975 - Spring, 1977

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Emily B. Kirby

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) AND USERS OF THE ERIC SYSTEM."

JC 780 070

Oakton Community College

Emily B. Kirby, Ph. D.
Director of Instructional Research and Evaluation
October 29, 1977

I. Course Enrollments

For each of the four semesters under consideration, we have determined the fifteen most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses. Our examination of rankings begins with the most recent semester--Spring 1977--and works backwards.

In Spring, 1977, 3 Communications courses were found among the most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses: 2nd semester Composition (COM 102), 1st semester Composition (COM 101) and Effective Speech (COM 103) were ranked respectively 1, 2, and 12. These courses accounted for 28.3% of the enrollment in that semester's fifteen most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses. Two Psychology courses: Introduction to Psychology (PSY 101) and Psychology of Personal Growth (PSY 107), occupying ranks 3 and 5, provided 17.5% of the remaining baccalaureate course enrollment. Three Business courses: Principles of Accounting (BUS 141), Introduction to Business (BUS 101) and the 2nd semester of Principles of Accounting (BUS 142), ranks 4, 8, and 10, accounted for another 19.1% of the Spring 1977 enrollment. Thus 8 courses in 3 disciplines were responsible for 64.9% of the total enrollment in the 15 baccalaureate courses having the greatest appeal for Oakton students during the semester. Two Mathematics courses: Intermediate Algebra (MAT 120) and College Algebra (MAT 121) accounted for another 9.4% of the enrollment. Thus 10 courses, in 4 disciplines: Communications, Psychology, Business and Mathematics provided 74.3% of the enrollments in the baccalaureate courses under consideration. Five other disciplines: Sociology, Humanities, Social Sciences, Political Science, and Biology were represented with 1 course each.

As can be seen from Table 1, the baccalaureate course enrolling the largest number of students (COM 102) attracted 12.5% of the group under consideration. This Composition course is required as part of the General Education Core. By contrast, at the lower end of the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses, we find 3 offerings: College Algebra, American Government, and Human Anatomy and Physiology, together attracting 10.3% of the Spring, 1977 group being examined here. Any of these courses are options which could be used to fulfill a core requirement.

Much has been made of current interest in the Social Sciences (defined at Oakton as Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Social Science). What percent of students enrolling in Oakton's 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses were to be found in Social Science classes? We found that 32.8% of the enrollments in the Spring 1977 semester in the courses under discussion were in Social Science subject matters as Oakton defines them. If Business is added to the category (as is often done) the percent rises to 52. By contrast, again in keeping with current nationwide trends, Science (Science and Mathematics at Oakton) enrollments were 12.4%

Table 1

Rank Order of Final Course Enrollment
Fifteen Most Heavily Enrolled Baccalaureate Courses
Spring Semester, 1977

Course Title	Course Number	Enrollment #	Enrollment %[a]	Rank
Composition	COM 102	588	12.5	1
Composition	COM 101	540	11.5	2
Introduction to Psychology	PSY 101	414	8.8	3
Principles of Accounting	BUS 141	409	8.7	4
Psychology of Pers. Growth	PSY 107	407	8.7	5
Introduction to Sociology	SOC 101	342	7.3	6
Modern Culture and the Arts	HUM 101	317	6.8	7
Introduction to Business	BUS 101	278	5.9	8
Intermediate Algebra	MAT 120	262	5.6	9
Principles of Accounting	BUS 142	212	4.5	10
Individual in Mod. Society	SSC 101	211	4.5	11
Effective Speech	COM 103	202	4.3	12
College Algebra	MAT 121	182	3.8	13
American Government	PSC 101	165	3.5	14
Human Anatomy and Physiology	BIO 132	142	3.0	15
15 Course Total Enrollment		4671	99.4	

Semester Total Course Enrollment 12888

15 Course Percent of Total Enrollment 36.2

a. Percent of 15 Course Total Enrollment

The Fall 1976 semester presents a slightly different picture, some of which may be related to differences usually found between Fall and Spring semesters on most campuses. While the 3 Communication courses were again heavily enrolled, not surprisingly, first semester Composition (COM 101, 18.0%), and second semester Composition (COM 102, 4.8%), and Effective Speech (COM 103, 3.0%), occupying ranks 1, 10, and 13, the proportion of enrollments in each course differed markedly from Spring, 1977. The total percents of enrollments in Communications courses differed somewhat for the Spring, 1977 (28.3%) and the Fall, 1976 (25.8%) semesters. Psychology enrollments for the 2 semesters involved Introduction to Psychology (PSY 101) and Psychology of Personal Growth (PSY 107), however, with different ranks: Spring, 1977, respectively, numbers 3 and 5, Fall, 1976, respectively, 3 and 4. In Fall, 1976, these Psychology courses attracted 19.8% of the enrollments compared with 17.5% the following semester. The attractiveness of Introduction to Psychology and Psychology of Personal Growth appears strong and stable at Oakton. Business was the second most heavily enrolled discipline in the baccalaureate sector, represented by Principles of Accounting (BUS 141, 11.3%), Introduction to Business (BUS 101, 6.8%), and Business Law (BUS 201, 2.9%) for 1/5 (21%) of the enrollment in Fall, 1976's most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses. If Economics is added to the Business discipline (a common procedure), Principles of Economics (ECO 201) contributes an additional 3.2%. Under such circumstances it could be said that roughly ¼ (24.2%) of the semester's heavy baccalaureate enrollments are accounted for by 4 Business, or business related courses. The Spring, 1977 semester list does not include Economics or Business Law, and includes 19.1% of the most heavily enrolled baccalaureate course enrollment. Apparently students who enroll in Business in a Fall semester, these days, tend to stick with this curriculum, or else the number of new students entering such courses continues high. The form of our data prevents a definitive answer to this question. But Business currently is a strong discipline at Oakton. Eight courses in 3 disciplines thus accounted for 66.6% of enrollments in the most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses in Fall, 1976. Six other disciplines: Humanities, Social Science, Sociology, and Political Science represented the Social Sciences (27.8%), while Mathematics and Biology (8.9%) represented Science.

Among the courses attracting less than 5% of the enrollments, we find ranks 10 through 15 for a total of 1/5 (19.8%) of the enrollments. The courses involved were in Communications, Business, Economics, Political Science, and Biology. Two of them were 200 level courses.

Looking at the Social Sciences combined enrollments (ranks 3, 4, 7, 8, 12, and 15) enables us to account for 37.4% of the enrollments. This level was 5% higher than that found for the Spring, 1977 semester. Including the Business courses

raises the total to 58.4%, a figure substantially higher than the Spring, 1977 level (52%). By contrast, Science enrollments, (8.9%) were substantially lower than those of Spring, 1977 (12.4%). Table 2 presents the actual data.

Table 2

Rank Order of Final Course Enrollment
Fifteen Most Heavily Enrolled Baccalaureate Courses
Fall Semester, 1976

Course Title	Course Number	Enrollment #	Enrollment %[a]	Rank
Composition	COM 101	988	18.0	1
Principles of Accounting	BUS 141	618	11.3	2
Introduction to Psychology	PSY 101	580	10.6	3
Psychology of Personal Growth	PSY 107	504	9.2	4
Introduction to Business	BUS 101	373	6.8	5
Modern Culture and the Arts	HUM 101	351	6.4	6
Individual in Mod. Society	SSC 101	335	6.1	7
Introduction to Sociology	SOC 101	312	5.7	8
Intermediate Algebra	MAT 120	306	5.6	9
Composition	COM 102	264	4.8	10
Human Anatomy and Physiology	BIO 131	183	3.3	11
Principles of Economics	ECO 201	175	3.2	12
Effective Speech	COM 103	167	3.0	13
Business Law	BUS 201	159	2.9	14
American Government	PSC 101	147	2.6	15
15 Course Total Enrollment		5462	99.5	

Semester Total Course Enrollment 13863
15 Course Percent of Total Enrollment 39.3

a. Percent of 15 Course Total Enrollment

If we now compare the Spring, 1976 and Spring, 1977 semesters, some annual enrollment patterns may begin to emerge. We see that ranks 1 and 2 involve the two Composition courses and similar proportions of enrollments (1976=23.6%; 1977 = 23.0%); proportions of students enrolled in the top 3 courses are virtually identical (1976=32.9%; 1977=32.8%). The 4 courses involved are Composition 1 and 2, Introduction to Psychology, and Psychology of Personal Growth. Ranks 6 and 7 respectively Introduction to Sociology (1976=7.4%; 1977=7.3%) and a Humanities course called Modern Culture and the Arts (1976=6.7%; 1977=6.8%) display a comparable pattern producing total enrollment of 14.1%. In 8th place, in Spring, 1976 and 1977 is Introduction to Business with 6.7% and 5.9% of the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate course enrollments. Ninth place, likewise, offers concensus: Intermediate Algebra (1976=6.5%; 1977=5.6%). Thus enrollments in ranks 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 9 seem relatively stable with regard to content and proportions of enrollments: 60.2% of the enrollments for Spring, 1976 and 58.4% of those for Spring, 1977 are involved. It further seems highly likely that either rank 4 or 5 will contain Principles of Accounting (BUS 141) and that either Introduction to Psychology or Psychology of Personal Growth will fill the remaining position during Spring semesters. Between 8 and 9% of enrollments in ranks 4 and 5 will be found here when we analyze enrollments in the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses, if the Oakton experience during Spring 1976 and 1977 is an accurate barometer. While ranks 10 through 15 display less stability, the following courses, each attracting between 3 and 5% of the total enrollments under consideration, are likely to be represented in Spring semesters: College Algebra (MAT 120), Principles of Accounting (BUS 142), Individual in Modern Society (SSC 101), American Government (PSC 101), and Effective Speech (COM 103). (See Table 3 for the Spring 1976 course enrollments).

When we turn to the Social Sciences, we find that ranks 3, 4, 6, 12, and 13 representing the disciplines of Psychology, Sociology, Political Science, and Social Science accounted for 1/3 (33.2%) of the enrollments being considered. The comparison figure for Spring, 1977 is 32.8%. Addition of the Spring, 1976 Business enrollments raises the total to 54.2% which compares favorably with the more recent 52% in Spring, 1977. Only 2 Science courses appeared on this list (both in Mathematics): ranks 9 and 15 (total 9.7%) Intermediate and College Algebra respectively. The Spring, 1977 figure was 12.4%, perhaps indicating a rising trend, but worth watching.

Table 3

Rank Order of Final Course Enrollment
Fifteen Most Heavily Enrolled Baccalaureate Courses
Spring Semester, 1976

Course Title	Course Number	Enrollment #	Enrollment %[a]	Rank
Composition	COM 101	565	12.7	1
Composition	COM 102	487	10.9	2
Psychology of Personal Growth	PSY 107	415	9.3	3
Introduction to Psychology	PSY 101	391	8.8	4
Principles of Accounting	BUS 141	353	7.9	5
Introduction to Sociology	SOC 101	329	7.4	6
Modern Culture and the Arts	HUM 101	301	6.7	7
Introduction to Business	BUS 101	300	6.7	8
Intermediate Algebra	MAT 120	290	6.5	9
Effective Speech	COM 103	201	4.5	10
Principles of Accounting	BUS 142	191	4.3	11
Individual in Mod. Society	SSC 101	188	4.2	12
American Government	PSC 101	157	3.5	13
Business Law	BUS 201	147	3.2	14
College Algebra	MAT 121	146	3.2	15
15 Course Total Enrollment		4461	99.8	

Semester Total Course Enrollment 12794
15 Course Percent of Total Enrollment 34.9

a.. Percent of the 15 Course Total Enrollment

Turning to Fall 1975 comparisons with Fall 1976, we find that ranks 1, 3, 10, 11, and 13 are occupied by the same course in both years, respectively: COM 101, PSC 101, COM 102, BIO 131, and COM 103 for totals of 39.7% (1976) and 39.2% (1975). There are, however, several shifts of one rank between the years. For instance, Introduction to Business in 1975 ranked 6th and in 1976 ranked 5th both times attracting 6.8% of the enrollment, while Modern Culture and the Arts ranked 5th in 1975 (6.8%) was 6th in 1976 (6.4%). Introduction to Sociology 8th in 1976 (5.7%) was 9th in 1975 (5.5%). Among the courses having higher ranks in 1976 than in 1975 are:

COURSES	1976		1975	
Principles of Accounting (BUS 141)	2	11.3%	4	9.2%
Introduction to Business (BUS 101)	5	6.8%	6	6.8%
Individual In Modern Society (SSC 101)	7	6.1%	8	6.0%
Introduction to Sociology (SOC 101)	8	5.7%	9	5.5%
Principles of Economics (ECO 201)	12	3.2%	14	3.1%

One might conclude that the following courses would have a high probability of appearing in the top of the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses list in subsequent Fall semesters: COM 101, PSY 107, COM 102, SSC 101, BUS 141, BUS 101, HUM 101, MAT 120, and SOC 101. It needs to be added that 2 samples one year apart are insufficient data for charting trends: they merely give an indication of what to watch for in the future.

When we compare Fall enrollments for the Communications offerings we find that ranks 1, 10, and 13 are represented with ¼ (25.4% in 1975) of the total enrollments (compared with 25.8% in 1976). Comparing Communication courses enrollments for academic 1975-6 indicates that while total enrollments for the semesters are similar, course enrollments vary markedly:

Course	Spring 1976		Fall 1975	
COM 101	1	18.0%	1	12.7%
COM 102	10	4.2%	2	10.9%
COM 103	13	3.2%	10	4.5%
Total		25.5%		28.1%

Two courses: Psychology of Personal Growth and Introduction to Psychology account for an additional 1/5 (20.8%) of the Fall 1975 enrollments in courses under consideration. Another 16% of Fall 1975 enrollments comes from 2 Business courses. Thus 7 offerings in 3 disciplines: Communications, Psychology, and Business account for over 3/5 (64.8%) of the heaviest baccalaureate enrollments. This semester also had 2 Mathematics courses (ranks 7 and 12) which accounted for an additional 10% of the most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses enrollment.

Table 4

Rank Order of Final Course Enrollment
Fifteen Most Heavily Enrolled Baccalaureate Courses
Fall Semester, 1975

Course Title	Course Number	Enrollment #	Enrollment %[a]	Rank
Composition	COM 101	939	18.0	1
Psychology of Personal Growth	PSY 107	556	10.6	2
Introduction to Psychology	PSY 101	532	10.2	3
Principles of Accounting	BUS 141	479	9.2	4
Modern Culture and the Arts	HUM 101	357	6.8	5
Introduction to Business	BUS 101	355	6.8	6
Intermediate Algebra	MAT 120	349	6.7	7
Individual in Mod. Society	SSC 101	316	6.0	3
Introduction to Sociology	SOC 101	290	5.5	9
Composition	COM 102	221	4.2	10
Human Anatomy and Physiology	BIO 131	186	3.6	11
College Algebra	MAT 121	179	3.4	12
Effective Speech	COM 103	170	3.2	13
Principles of Economics	ECO 201	163	3.1	14
Introduction to Philosophy	HUM 107	131	2.5	15
15 Course Total Enrollment		5223	99.8	

Semester Total Course Enrollment 12887

15 Course Percent of Total Enrollment 40.5

a. Percent of 15 Course Total Enrollment

In Fall 1975, 5 Social Science courses accounted for 35.4% of the enrollments which concern us. This total is only 2% lower than that of the 6 courses for Fall 1976. Addition of the 2 Fall 1975 Business courses (total 16%) raises the Social Sciences total to 51.4%, 7% lower than that resulting from the addition of 3 Business courses to the Fall 1976 figure (58.4%). Science enrollments in Fall 1975 are 13.7% (3 courses in Science and Mathematics), a total considerably higher than that for the following year (8.9%). It appears that Oakton's patterns of increasing Social Science, and decreasing Science enrollments are consonant with national trends.

Table 5

Ranks and Numbers of Students Enrolled
by Semesters (Fall 1975 - Spring 1977)
In Most Heavily Enrolled Baccalaureate Courses

Baccalaureate Course Titles	Semesters									
	S 1977		F 1976		S 1976		F 1975		Total	
	#	Rank	#	Rank	#	Rank	#	Rank	#	Rank
Composition (COM 102)	588	1	264	10	487	2	221	10	1560	5
Composition (COM 101)	540	2	988	1	565	1	939	1	3032	1
Introduction to Psy. (PSY 101)	414	3	580	3	391	4	532	3	1917	2
Principles of Accounting (BUS 141)	409	4	618	2	353	5	479	4	1859	4
Psy. of Pers. Growth (Psy 107)	407	5	504	4	415	3	556	2	1882	3
Intro. to Sociology (SOC 101)	342	6	312	8	329	6	290	9	1273	8
Mod. Cult. and the Arts (HUM 101)	317	7	351	6	301	7	357	5	1326	6
Introduction to Business (BUS 101)	278	8	373	5	300	8	355	6	1306	7
Intermediate Algebra (MAT 120)	262	9	306	9	290	9	349	7	1207	9
Principles of Accounting (BUS 142)	212	10	-	-	191	11	-	-	403	14
Individual in Mod. Soc. (SSC 101)	211	11	335	7	188	12	316	8	1050	10
Effective Speech (COM 103)	202	12	167	13	201	10	170	13	740	11
College Algebra (MAT 121)	182	13	-	-	146	15	179	12	507	12
American Government (PSC 101)	165	14	147	15	157	13	-	-	469	13
Human Anat. and Phys. (BIO 132)	142	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	142	
Human Anat. and Phys. (BIO 131)	-	-	183	11	-	-	186	11	369	15
Principles of Economics (ECO 201)	-	-	175	12	-	-	163	14	338	
Business Law (BUS 201)	-	-	159	14	147	14	-	-	306	
Intro. to Philosophy (HUM 107)	-	-	-	-	-	-	131	15	131	
TOTAL	4671		5462		4461		5223		19817	

We have looked at the enrollments in Oakton's 15 most popular baccalaureate courses by individual semesters, by comparing 2 Spring and 2 Fall semesters, a year apart, and also have made some academic year comparisons. Our final attention to enrollments in courses was to prepare a composite picture of all the data from the 2 year span. Table 5 presents the results (Appendix A presents the ranks for each semester and for the composite).

In all, 19 courses were considered. This occurred because the table for each semester was generated without reference to any other semester. The 19 courses had enrollments of 131 to 3032 students; 19817 student enrollments were involved. No course which appeared on only 1 of the 4 semester lists was included in the final list of 15 courses. With only 2 exceptions. (Composite ranks 14 and 15) courses on the final list appeared in at least 3 of the 4 semester lists. Ranks 1 through 11 appeared with the same courses on all 4 lists, ranks 12 and 13 were found on 3 lists each. If the 4 semester enrollment results were used as a basis for predicting future enrollments in the popular baccalaureate courses, their stability would ensure fairly good results over a continuous 2 year period. Prediction to particular semesters would not be as accurate, for, as we have seen, fluctuations do exist between Fall and Spring semesters.

The courses emerging as the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate offerings are given in descending order: Composition 1, Introduction to Psychology, Psychology of Personal Growth, Principles of Accounting 1, Composition 2, Modern Culture and the Arts, Introduction to Business, Introduction to Sociology, Intermediate Algebra, Individual in Modern Society, Effective Speech, College Algebra, American Government, Principles of Accounting 2, and Human Anatomy and Physiology 1. The only surprises are the relatively high rankings of the Business courses (ranks 4 and 14) and the single Natural Science offering: the Human Anatomy and Physiology 1.

Four courses which appeared during only 1 semester, and did not therefore appear on the composite list, may bear watching. They are: Principles of Economics, Business Law, Human Anatomy and Physiology 2, and Introduction to Philosophy.

Summary: A 4 semester examination of the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses at Oakton Community College (Fall 1975 - Spring 1977) revealed consistently heavy enrollments in the Social Sciences. If Business is added to the Social Science (as is often done), an even greater proportion of enrollment results. Heavy enrollments were also noted in the General Education Core courses in Communications. Science enrollments were low (below 15% for each semester) during the time span considered. The 2 year rankings, of the Composite list, along with the percent contributed to the total 2 year enrollment, are presented in Table 6.

Table 6

2 Year Rankings of Fifteen
Most Heavily Enrolled Baccalaureate Courses[a]
Fall, 1975 - Spring, 1977

Baccalaureate Course Titles	Number and Percent[b] Enrolled	
	#	% c
Composition (COM 101)	3032	16.0
Introduction to Psychology (PSY 101)	1917	10.1
Psychology of Personal Growth (PSY 107)	1882	10.0
Principles of Accounting (BUS 141)	1859	9.8
Composition (COM 102)	1560	8.2
Modern Culture and the Arts (HUM 101)	1326	7.0
Introduction to Business (BUS 101)	1306	6.9
Introduction to Sociology (SOC 101)	1273	6.7
Intermediate Algebra (MAT 120)	1207	6.4
Individual in Modern Society (SSC 101)	1050	5.5
Effective Speech (COM 103)	740	3.9
College Algebra (MAT 121)	507	2.6
American Government (PSC 101)	469	2.4
Principles of Accounting (BUS 142)	403	2.1
Human Anatomy and Physiology (BIO 131)	369	1.9
TOTAL	18900	99.5

a. Listed in descending order
b. Combined four semester enrollments
c. Subject to rounding error

II. Grade Distribution

We have prepared a table for each of the 4 semester grade distributions of the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses. The bottom 2 lines of each table list, respectively, the total 15 course grade distribution, which we calculated, and the semester all course grade distribution. Thus, the 15 baccalaureate course grade distribution provides an average percentage for each letter grade, while the semester all course grade distribution presents the average percentage for each letter grade for the entire college.

Beginning with the Spring 1977 semester, we will comment on grading patterns and apparent practices. (See Table 7) During that semester the percentage of A grades given in the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses varied between 14% (Introduction to Business) and 35% (Psychology of Personal Growth). The average percent of A grades for the entire college was 25% during the semester. For the 15 baccalaureate courses it was 22%. Courses in which less than 20% of the students received A grades were, in addition to Introduction to Business: College Algebra (15%), Principles of Accounting 1, Introduction to Sociology, and Intermediate Algebra (18%), and Individual in Modern Society (19%). An additional 1/3 of the courses being considered contained 20-25% A grades. The courses involved were: Composition 1 and Introduction to Psychology (21%), Effective Speech and American Government (22%), and Composition 2 (23%). The highest group of courses contained 26-35% A grades. Included were: Human Anatomy and Physiology 2 (27%), Principles of Accounting 2 (28%), Modern Culture and the Arts (30%), and the aforementioned Psychology of Personal Growth (35%). Thirty-two percent of all A grades given during this semester were received in the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses.

Grades of B during the Spring 1977 semester in these 15 baccalaureate courses averaged 24%; the total course grade distribution also contained 24% B grades. The range of B grades among the 15 baccalaureate courses was 14-42%. The courses giving ¼ or fewer B grades included: Principles of Accounting 1 (14%), Principles of Accounting 2 (16%), Intermediate Algebra, Individual in Modern Society, and College Algebra (21%), American Government (22%), Introduction to Psychology (23%), and Modern Culture and the Arts (25%). Courses in which more than ¼ to over 2/5 of the students received grades of B included: Composition 1 (27%), Introduction to Sociology and Human Anatomy and Physiology 2 (28%), Composition 2 (30%), Psychology of Personal Growth (31%), and Effective Speech (42%). Thirty-seven percent of the B grades given during the semester were given in the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses.

Grades of C, defined in the Oakton Catalog as "average" (1977-8, p.22), were received by more than ¼ of the students in only 3 courses of those under consideration

Table 7

Number of Letter Grades Awarded and Percentages
Spring Semester, 1977

	A		B		C		D		X		V		W		R		T		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	Total
1. COM 102	136	23	178	30	89	15	24	04	48	08	0	00	18	03	95	16	0	00	588
2. COM 101	113	21	148	27	91	17	33	06	22	04	0	00	20	04	113	21	0	00	540
3. PSY 101	85	21	95	23	114	28	29	07	21	05	0	00	12	03	58	14	0	00	414
4. BUS 141	72	18	57	14	69	17	36	09	6	01	1	00	30	07	138	34	0	00	409
5. PSY 107	143	35	128	31	67	16	12	03	21	05	0	00	3	01	33	08	0	00	407
6. SOC 101	60	18	96	28	96	28	30	09	18	05	0	00	7	02	35	10	0	00	342
7. HUM 101	96	30	80	25	67	21	2	01	16	05	1	00	11	03	44	14	0	00	317
8. BUS 101	38	14	61	22	70	25	31	11	6	02	1	00	10	04	61	22	0	00	278
9. MAT 120	46	18	54	21	58	22	16	06	12	05	0	00	14	05	62	24	0	00	262
10. BUS 142	59	28	34	16	42	20	20	09	2	01	0	00	9	04	46	22	0	00	212
11. SSC 101	41	19	45	21	30	14	14	07	8	04	0	00	13	06	60	28	0	00	211
12. COM 103	44	22	84	42	37	18	3	01	11	05	0	00	6	03	17	08	0	00	202
13. MAT 121	28	15	38	21	31	17	10	05	14	08	0	00	17	09	44	24	0	00	182
14. PSC 101	37	22	37	22	47	28	13	08	6	04	0	00	2	01	23	14	0	00	165
15. BIO 132	39	27	40	28	33	23	16	11	2	01	1	01	4	03	7	05	0	00	142
Total 15 Course Grade Distribution	1037	22	1175	24	941	20	289	06	213	05	4	00	176	04	836	18	0	00	4671
Semester all Course Grade Distribution	3204	25	3139	24	2258	17	620	05	721	06	21	00	477	04	2059	16	389	03	12888

16/17

16

in the Spring 1977 semester. In Introduction to Psychology, Introduction to Sociology, and American Government, 28% of the grades were C. One-quarter of the students in Introduction to Business also received C grades. The 15 baccalaureate course C percent average was 20; the semester total average percent was 17. Students in the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses earned 42% of the C grades given during the Spring 1977 semester. We will compare this finding with Spring 1976.

R grades (must repeat for credit) during the Spring 1977 semester were only slightly less numerous (836) than C grades (941). In 7 of the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses 20 or more percent of the grades were R: Composition 2 (21%), Introduction to Business, and Principles of Accounting 2 (22%), College Algebra and Intermediate Algebra (24%), Individual in Modern Society (28%), and Principles of Accounting 1 (34%). The baccalaureate course average was 18%, while the collegewide average percentage of R grades was 16. Students in these baccalaureate courses received 41% of the R grades given collegewide during the semester.

X grades (course still in progress) reached a high of 8% for Composition 2 and College Algebra, and a low of 1% for Principles of Accounting 1 and 2 and Human Anatomy and Physiology 2. The remaining 10 courses fell between these limits, with 6 having 5% X grades: Introduction to Psychology, Psychology of Personal Growth, Introduction to Sociology, Modern Culture and the Arts, Intermediate Algebra, and Effective Speech. The average baccalaureate percentage of X grades was 5, while the collegewide average was 5%. Students in the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses received 29% of the total X grades given during the semester.

For the Spring semester 1977 the following courses gave more than ½ of their grades in the combined A + B category. (A is defined as "excellent" at Oakton, while B is "good"): Composition 2 (53%), Modern Culture and the Arts and Human Anatomy and Physiology 2 (55%), Effective Speech (64%), and Psychology of Personal Growth (66%). The collegewide combined A + B average percent is 48, while the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate combined percent is 47. Thirty-six percent of the combined A + B percent was contributed to the total grade distribution by the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaurate courses.

In the Fall 1976 semester, A grades for the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses ranged from a high of 40% (Psychology of Personal Growth) to a low of 14% (Introduction to Sociology). The modal value was 16%: Composition 1, Principles of Accounting 1, Intermediate Algebra, and American Government. In 3 courses, 30% or more of the grades received were As: Psychology of Personal Growth (40%), Business Law (33%), and Human Anatomy and Physiology 1 (30%).

The baccalaureate average A percent for the semester was 22, while the collegewide A average percent was 23. Of all A grades given in Fall 1976, 37% went to students in the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses.

B grades ranged from a high of 41% (Effective Speech) to a low of 18% (Principles of Accounting 1, Introduction to Business, and American Government). Courses in which more than ¼ of the students received Bs included: Individual in Modern Society (33%), Psychology of Personal Growth (32%), Composition 1 (31%), Introduction to Sociology and Business Law (28%), Modern Culture and the Arts, and Composition 2 (27%), in addition to the previously mentioned Effective Speech. The 15 baccalaureate courses' average was 26% B grades. The total B grade average was 24% of which the baccalaureate courses contributed 42%.

C grades varied between 9% (Composition 2) and 27% (Introduction to Psychology). In addition to Introduction to Psychology, more than ¼ of the grades were C in: American Government (28%), Principles of Economics and Introduction to Sociology (26%). Slightly fewer than ¼ of the students received grades of C in Composition 1 (23%) and Introduction to Business (22%). The remaining C grades were below 20% as can be verified by examination of Table 8. The 15 course baccalaureate C percentage was 19, while the collegewide C grades averaged 17%. The 15 baccalaureate C grades contributed 44% of the collegewide C grades.

The baccalaureate and collegewide D grades percent varied by one point, respectively, 6 and 5. The range for the heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses in Fall 1976 was 00% (Composition 2) to 13% (American Government). In 3 of the courses, 1/10 or more of the students received grades of D: the aforementioned American Government, Introduction to Sociology (10%) and Principles of Economics (12%). In 6 of the courses fewer than 5% of the students received Ds: Composition 2 already mentioned, Modern Culture and the Arts, Individual in Modern Society, and Business Law (3%), Psychology of Personal Growth and Effective Speech (2%). The 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaurate courses contributed 47% of all the Ds given during the semester.

Eighteen percent of the grades given in the 15 baccalaureate courses, and 16% of those given collegewide during the semester, were R (repeat). In 7 of the courses between 15 and 23% of the grades given were R: Intermediate Algebra (23%), Introduction to Business (20%), Composition 1 and Introduction to Psychology (18%), Composition 2 and American Government (17%), and Business Law (15%). The lowest R percentage during this semester was 7% in Psychology of Personal Growth. In the 15 courses under consideration, 44% of all the collegewide R grades were received.

By contrast, in only 1 course under consideration did the X grade level reach 10% (Composition 2). However, X grade levels in 3 courses approached this: Modern Culture and the Arts (9%), and Introduction to Business and Intermediate

Table 8

Number of Letter Grades Awarded and Percentages
Fall Semester, 1976

	A		B		C		D		X		V		W		R		T		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	Total
1. COM 101	157	16	309	31	231	23	52	05	32	03	0	00	32	03	175	18	0	00	988
2. BUS 141	97	16	111	18	78	13	49	08	1	00	2	00	61	10	219	35	0	00	618
3. PSY 101	116	20	129	22	158	27	28	05	28	05	1	00	13	02	107	18	0	00	580
4. PSY 107	202	40	160	32	58	12	8	02	31	06	1	00	7	01	37	07	0	00	504
5. BUS 101	69	18	68	18	83	22	25	07	29	08	1	00	22	06	76	20	0	00	373
6. HUM 101	95	27	96	27	56	16	12	03	31	09	0	00	10	03	51	15	0	00	351
7. SSC 101	98	29	109	33	56	17	10	03	19	06	0	00	2	01	41	12	0	00	335
8. SOC 101	44	14	87	28	81	26	32	10	17	05	1	00	8	03	42	13	0	00	312
9. MAT 120	50	16	65	21	49	16	22	07	25	08	0	00	26	08	69	23	0	00	306
10. COM 102	73	28	70	27	25	09	1	00	27	10	0	00	22	08	46	17	0	00	264
11. BIO 131	54	30	38	21	33	18	16	09	5	03	1	01	10	05	26	14	0	00	183
12. ECO 201	35	20	40	23	46	26	21	12	3	02	0	00	13	07	17	10	0	00	175
13. COM 103	39	23	69	41	24	14	3	02	3	02	0	00	6	04	23	14	0	00	167
14. BUS 201	52	33	45	28	25	16	5	03	3	02	2	01	3	02	24	15	0	00	159
15. PSC 101	23	16	27	18	41	28	19	13	8	05	0	00	4	03	25	17	0	00	147
Total 15 Course Grade Distribution	1204	22	1423	26	1044	19	303	06	262	05	9	00	239	04	978	18	0	00	5462
Semester all Course Grade Distribution	3246	23	3358	24	2393	17	639	05	883	06	37	00	554	04	2244	16	509	04	13863

Algebra (8%) achieved similar levels. On the other end of the distribution, in 6 of the courses X grade levels were below 5%: Composition 1 and Human Anatomy and Physiology 1 (3%), Principles of Economics, Effective Speech, and Business Law (2%), and Principles of Accounting 1 (00%). In 3 additional courses, the X grades amounted to 5%: American Government, Introduction to Sociology, and Introduction to Psychology. X grades for the 15 baccalaureate courses were at an average of 5% for the semester; the collegewide average was 6% of which the 15 baccalaureate courses contributed 30%.

Turning now to the Spring 1976 semester and to Table 9, we find that A grades given in the 15 baccalaureate courses varied between 10 and 44%. The average in the courses under consideration was 23%, while the collegewide average was 26%. In 11 of the courses 20% or more of the students received A grades, the modal value of 22% was found in Composition 2, Introduction to Business, Principles of Accounting 2, and Business Law. The other courses involved were: Principles of Accounting (20%), Introduction to Sociology (21%), Effective Speech (23%), Intermediate Algebra (25%), Individual in Modern Society (26%), Modern Culture and the Arts (29%), and Psychology of Personal Growth (44%). In 4 courses fewer than 20% of the students received A grades: American Government (10%), College Algebra (14%), Introduction to Psychology and Composition 1 (17%). The 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses contributed 31% of the semester's collegewide A grades. While a slight difference was noted between the Spring semesters of 1977 and 1976 regarding the range of A grades (Spring 1976 being somewhat larger), little difference was noted in the central portions of the grade distributions; it must be remembered that the course rosters were not identical.

Grades of B during the Spring 1976 semester in these 15 baccalaureate courses averaged 28% as compared with 24% in the Spring, 1977 semester. B grades among the 15 baccalaureate courses ranged between 5 and 41%, compared with 4 and 42% for the following Spring semester. Courses in which ¼ or fewer B grades were given included: College Algebra (23%), Intermediate Algebra (22%), Introduction to Business (21%), Principles of Accounting 2 (20%), and Principles of Accounting 1 (15%). In Spring 1977 fewer than ¼ B grades were given in 8 of the courses as compared with 5 in the Spring of 1976. More than ¼ to over 2/5 of the students received B grades in: Modern Culture and the Arts (27%), Introduction to Psychology, and Composition 1 (28%), Business Law, Introduction to Sociology, and Psychology of Personal Growth (29%), American Government (30%), Composition 2 (35%), Individual in Modern Society (37%) and Effective Speech (41%). The 15 course contribution to collegewide B grades was 38%.

Table 9

Number of Letter Grades Awarded and Percentages

Spring Semester, 1976

	A		B		C		D		X		V		W		R		T		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	Total
1. COM 101	97	17	161	28	132	23	31	05	9	02	1	00	27	05	107	19	0	00	565
2. COM 102	106	22	171	35	95	20	18	04	22	05	0	00	15	03	60	12	0	00	487
3. PSY 107	181	44	119	29	59	14	7	02	9	02	1	00	6	01	33	08	0	00	415
4. PSY 101	66	17	110	28	84	21	18	05	12	03	0	00	18	05	83	21	0	00	391
5. BUS 141	69	20	53	15	64	18	25	07	2	01	2	01	18	05	120	34	0	00	353
6. SOC 101	70	21	94	29	85	26	16	05	16	05	0	00	7	82	41	12	0	00	329
7. HUM 101	86	29	80	27	40	13	12	04	18	06	0	00	10	03	55	18	0	00	301
8. BUS 101	67	22	64	21	61	20	27	09	6	02	0	00	13	04	62	21	0	00	300
9. MAT 120	73	25	64	22	52	18	15	05	20	07	2	01	18	06	46	16	0	00	290
10. COM 103	47	23	82	41	40	20	5	02	2	01	0	00	8	04	17	08	0	00	201
11. BUS 142	42	22	38	20	31	16	11	06	3	02	2	01	15	08	49	26	0	00	191
12. SSC 101	49	26	69	37	28	15	1	01	12	06	1	01	2	01	26	14	0	00	188
13. PSC 101	16	10	47	30	41	26	19	12	4	03	0	00	11	07	19	12	0	00	157
14. BUS 201	33	22	43	29	35	24	9	06	6	04	0	00	7	05	14	10	0	00	147
15. MAT 121	20	14	34	23	42	29	8	05	6	04	2	01	8	05	26	18	0	00	146
Total 15 Course Grade Distribution	1022	23	1229	28	889	20	222	05	147	03	11	00	183	04	758	17	0	00	4461
Semester all Course Grade Distribution	3321	26	3266	26	2372	19	623	05	521	04	33	00	456	04	1870	15	0	03	12794

C grades were received by ¼ or more students Spring 1976 in 3 courses under consideration: College Algebra (29%), Introduction to Sociology and American Government (26%). In Spring, 1977 2 of the same courses appeared in this category: Introduction to Sociology and American Government (28%), and again 3 courses were involved. In one Spring 1976 course, Modern Culture and the Arts, only 13% of the students received Cs. The 15 baccalaureate C percent average was 20%; the semester total course average was 19%. Of C grades given during the semester students in the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses earned 37%.

R grades earned in Spring 1976 (758) were only slightly less numerous than C grades (889). R grades given in the 15 baccalaureate courses during Spring 1976 ranged from a low of 8% to a high of 34%. In 4 of the courses, 20% or more of the students received grades of R: Introduction to Psychology and Introduction to Business (21%), Principles of Accounting 2 (26%), and Principles of Accounting 1 (34%). Principles of Accounting 1 was also the course having the highest percentage of R grades (again 34%) in Spring 1977. The Spring 1977 semester included 7 courses in the category of 20% or more R grades. In Spring 1977 the baccalaureate course percent average of R grades was 17, while the collegewide figure was 15%. The previous year, the figures were 18 and 16 percent respectively. The Spring 1976 contribution to the collegewide R total was 40% (1977 = 41%); almost identical results were found then for the source of R grades in the 2 years.

X grade distributions were rather similar for the 2 Spring semesters. In 1976, the high for the Spring semester was 7% (Intermediate Algebra) and the low was 1% (Principles of Accounting 1 and Effective Speech), and the remaining 12 courses fell between these limits. The average baccalaureate percentage of X grades was 3%, while the collegewide average was 4%. These averages are considerable lower than those of the following year: 5 and 6% respectively. In Spring 1976, the 15 baccalaureate courses contributed 28% of the collegewide X grades as compared with 29% the next year.

For the Spring semester 1976, the following courses gave ½ or more of their grades in the combined A + B category: Psychology of Personal Growth (73%), Effective Speech (64%), Individual In Modern Society (63%), Composition 2 (57%), Modern Culture and the Arts (56%), Business Law (51%), and Introduction to Sociology (50%). In both Spring semesters, Psychology of Personal Growth and Effective Speech gave more than 60% A + B grades, while Composition 2 and Modern Culture and the Arts gave more than 50% combined A + B grades during the same semesters. The Spring 1976 15 course combined A + B category average was 49%; the collegewide combined A + B category average was 51%. Comparable figures from the following Spring semester are 48% and 47% respectively. While the figures are similar, they may indicate the beginning of a slight decrease in the percentage

of A + B grades given: this may herald a healthy trend. Respective contributions to the collegewide figure made by the 15 courses being considered are: 1977 = 36%, 1976 = 34%.

Table 10
Number of Letter Grades Awarded and Percentage
Fall Semester, 1975

	A		B		C		D		X		V		W		R		T		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	Total
1. COM 101	119	13	291	31	240	26	57	06	33	04	0	00	35	04	164	17	0	00	939
2. PSY 107	257	46	145	26	67	12	11	02	20	04	1	00	5	01	50	09	0	00	556
3. PSY 101	116	22	137	26	107	20	36	07	31	06	0	00	18	03	87	16	0	00	532
4. BUS 141	77	16	77	16	87	18	30	06	3	91	4	01	29	06	172	36	0	00	479
5. HUM 101	96	27	93	26	72	20	9	03	7	02	0	00	17	05	63	18	0	00	357
6. BUS 101	79	22	79	22	100	28	30	08	8	02	0	00	6	02	53	15	0	00	355
7. MAT 120	75	21	48	14	80	23	22	06	24	07	1	00	21	06	78	22	0	00	349
8. SSC 101	63	20	83	26	55	17	27	09	23	07	0	00	8	03	57	18	0	00	316
9. SOC 101	69	24	80	28	62	21	25	09	15	05	0	00	7	02	32	11	0	00	290
10. COM 102	62	28	71	32	28	13	3	01	13	06	0	00	9	04	35	16	0	00	221
11. BIO 131	53	28	40	22	31	17	18	10	3	02	3	02	10	05	28	15	0	00	186
12. MAT 121	38	21	34	19	40	22	7	04	12	07	2	01	15	08	31	17	0	00	179
13. COM 103	55	32	62	36	28	16	2	01	5	03	0	00	3	02	15	09	0	00	170
14. ECO 201	20	12	37	23	34	21	27	17	1	01	0	00	3	02	41	25	0	00	163
15. HUM 107	36	27	36	27	25	19	4	03	9	07	0	00	2	02	19	15	0	00	131
Total 15 Course Grade Distribution	1215	23	1313	25	1056	20	308	06	207	04	11	00	188	04	925	18	0	00	5223
Semester all Course Grade Distribution	3135	24	3222	25	2307	18	651	05	531	04	30	00	483	04	2080	16	448	03	12887

27/28

In the Fall 1975 semester, A grades for the most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses ranged between 46% (Psychology of Personal Growth) and 12% (Principles of Economics). In 2/5 of the courses, more than 25% of the students earned A grades: Psychology of Personal Growth (46%), Effective Speech (32%), Composition 2, and Human Anatomy and Physiology (28%) and Modern Culture and the Arts and Introduction to Philosophy (27%). In both Fall semesters, the Psychology of Personal Growth received the highest percentage of A grades of the baccalaureate courses being examined. The baccalaureate courses' percent of A grades for Fall 1975 was 23%--a figure 1% higher than that for Fall 1976. The semester all course distribution of A grades percent was 24, 1% higher than that found the following year. Of all A grades given in Fall 1975, 39% went to students in the semester's 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses. This was 2% more than Fall 1976.

B grades ranged from a high of 36% (Effective Speech) to a low of 14% (Intermediate Algebra) in Fall 1975. The range of B grades is slightly smaller than that found a year later (1976 = 41 - 18%) but the upper and the lower limits display considerable variation for the 2 years. Courses in which more than ¼ of the students received Bs included: Effective Speech (36%), Composition 2 (32%), Composition 1 (31%), Introduction to Sociology (28%), Introduction to Philosophy (27%), Psychology of Personal Growth, Introduction to Psychology, Modern Culture and the Arts, and Individual in Modern Society (26%). The same list obtains for the following Fall semester with the exception of Business Law (1976) and Introduction to Philosophy (1975). Both the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses and the collegewide B grades were 25% of their respective distributions. A year later the figures were 26 and 24% respectively. In Fall 1975, the 15 baccalaureate courses contributed 41% of the collegewide B grades, a figure almost identical to the 42% found the following Fall semester.

C grades varied between 12% (Psychology of Personal Growth) and 28% (Introduction to Business). The only other baccalaureate course in which more than ¼ of the students received C grades was Composition 1 (26%). In 3/5 of the courses, 20% or fewer C grades were given: Introduction to Psychology, and Modern Culture and the Arts (20%), Introduction to Philosophy (19%), Principles of Accounting 1 (18%), Individual in Modern Society and Human Anatomy and Physiology 1 (17%), Effective Speech (16%), Composition 2 (13%), and Psychology of Personal Growth (12%). In Fall 1975 the C grade percent was 20% (1976 = 19%); the collegewide average was 18% (1976 = 17%). Baccalaureate C grades contributed 46% of C grades collegewide in Fall 1975 compared with 44% in Fall, 1976.

In only 2 courses, Principles of Economics (17%) and Human Anatomy and Physiology 1 (10%) did the D grade level reach or exceed 10%. For both Composition 2

and Effective Speech, only 1% of the grades were Ds. Fewer than 5% of the students received Ds in: Effective Speech and Composition 2, already mentioned, College Algebra (4%), Introduction to Philosophy and Modern Culture and the Arts (3%), and Psychology of Personal Growth (2%). Except for a switch between College Algebra (1975) and Business Law (1976) the lists show no marked variation with regard to D grades. The baccalaureate D percent was 6 for the 15 course distribution and 5% for the collegewide distribution; these figures are reverse for Fall 1976 with 5% for the baccalaureate and 6% for the collegewide distributions of D grades. The 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses contributed 47% to the collegewide D grades in both 1975 and 1976.

R grades in both years accounted for 18% of the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate course grades and 16% of the collegewide distribution. R grades during the Fall 1975 semester ranged between 9 (Psychology of Personal Growth and Effective Speech) and 36% (Principles of Accounting 1). In 2 courses, Principles of Economics (25%) and the already mentioned Principles of Accounting 1, ¼ or more of the students received R grades. Between 1/10 and ¼ of the grades received in the following courses were Rs: Intermediate Algebra (22%), Modern Culture and the Arts and Individual in Modern Society (18%), Composition 1 and College Algebra (17%), Composition 2 and Introduction to Psychology (16%), Human Anatomy and Physiology 1, Introduction to Business, and Introduction to Philosophy (15%), and Introduction to Sociology (11%). In both Fall semesters, the lowest percentage of R grades was received in Psychology of Personal Growth. Likewise, in both Fall semesters 44% of all R grades collegewide were received in the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses.

By contrast, X grades did not reach 9% in any of the 15 baccalaureate courses during Fall 1975. The highest percentage of X grades was 7 reached in Intermediate and College Algebra as well as in Introduction to Philosophy and Individual in Modern Society. The lowest X percentage, 1% was reached in Principles of Accounting 1 and Principles of Economics. X grades at the 5% level or below were given, in addition to the courses just mentioned, in: Introduction to Sociology (5%), Composition 1 and Psychology of Personal Growth (4%), Effective Speech (3%), Introduction to Business, Modern Culture and the Arts, and Human Anatomy and Physiology 1 (2%). Both the 15 course X grade percentage and the collegewide X percent were 4% in Fall 1975. In Fall 1976, the figures were 5 and 6% respectively. These figures bear watching. The 15 baccalaureate courses contributed 39% of the collegewide X grades compared with 30% the following year.

Combined A + B grades totaling 50% or more were found in: Psychology of Personal Growth (72%), Effective Speech (68%), Composition 2 (60%), Introduction to Philosophy (54%), Modern Culture and the Arts (53%), Introduction to Sociology (52%),

Human Anatomy and Physiology (50%). The combined A + B baccalaureate percent was 48%, while the collegewide average in Fall 1975 was 49%. For Fall 1976 the respective figures are both 48%.

We have provided 2 additional tables. The first, Table 11, documents the contribution of each of the most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses to each letter grade. The second, Table 12, gives the 4 semester course grade distribution for each of the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses. The tables can be compared with each other, or figures given earlier can be compared with those on the summary (Table 12).

Table 12 can provide some interesting highlights at a glance. For instance, over the 4 semester span, 11th ranked Effective Speech produced B grades for 40% of its students. This information, if widely circulated, could raise COM 103 to 1st rank among the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses, especially if it were added that another 25% of the students during the 2 year span received A grades. By contrast, in BUS 141 (Principles of Accounting 1) only 16% received B grades during the 2 year span, and an additional 17% got As. BUS 141 ranked 4th over the entire 4 semesters, and must be accounted (excuse the pun) a very stiff course. In 3rd rank, Psychology of Personal Growth, the chances were almost 3 out of 4 that a student would receive an A or B grade (A = 42% and B = 29%), odds difficult to beat. At the other end of the grading spectrum in 3 chances out of 10, the student in BUS 141 would receive an R grade. In MAT 120 the chances were 2.1 out of 10 that an R grade would be received, as compared with 2.0 and 1.9 out of 10 for an A and a B respectively. Students wishing for a C grade would be most likely to achieve their goal in American Government (C = 28%), Introduction to Sociology (C = 25%), Introduction to Business and Introduction to Psychology (C = 24%), although the chances of receiving the desired grade are poorer for C than for A or B during many of the semesters under consideration, and for the entire span for several of the courses just mentioned. Other comparisons will be left for the reader to make.

Table 11

Contribution of Each of Fifteen Most Heavily Enrolled Baccalaureate Courses to Each Letter Grade By Semesters

(Fall 1975 - Spring 1977)

Baccalaureate Course Titles [b]	A	%	B	%	C	%	D	%	X	%	O	%	R	%
COM 101	486	11	909	18	694	19	173	17	96	12	115	15	559	17
PSY 101	383	09	471	10	463	12	111	11	92	11	62	08	335	10
PSY 107	783	18	552	11	251	07	38	04	81	10	24	03	153	05
BUS 141	315	07	298	06	298	08	140	13	12	01	147	19	649	19
COM 102	377	09	490	10	237	06	46	04	110	14	64	08	236	07
HUM 101	373	09	349	07	235	06	35	03	72	09	49	06	213	06
BUS 101	253	06	272	05	314	08	113	11	49	06	53	07	252	07
SOC 101	243	06	357	07	324	09	103	10	66	08	30	04	150	04
MAT 120	244	06	231	05	239	06	75	07	81	10	82	10	255	08
SSC 101	251	06	306	06	169	05	52	05	62	08	26	03	184	05
COM 103	185	04	297	06	129	03	13	01	21	03	23	03	72	02
MAT 121	86	02	106	02	113	03	25	02	32	04	44	06	101	03
PSC 101	76	02	111	02	129	03	51	05	18	02	17	02	67	02
BUS 142	101	02	72	02	73	02	31	03	5	01	26	03	95	03
BIO 131	107	03	78	02	64	02	34	03	8	01	24	03	54	02
Total 15 Course Grade Distribution	4263	100	4899	99	3732	99	1040	99	805	100	786	100	3375	100
Total Semester All Course Grade Distribution	12906		12985		9330		2533		2656		3769		8253	

a. Other - included letter grades V, W, and T

b. Ranks run from number 1 to number 15.

Table 12

Course Grade Distribution
Fifteen Most Heavily Enrolled Baccalaureate Courses
(Fall 1975 - Spring 1977)

Course Titles[b]	A	%	B	%	C	%	D	%	X	%	O[a]	%	R	%	Total #	%
COM 101	486	16	909	30	694	23	173	06	96	03	115	04	559	18	3032	100
PSY 101	383	20	471	25	461	24	111	06	92	05	62	03	335	17	1917	100
PSY 107	783	42	552	29	251	13	38	02	81	04	24	01	153	08	1882	99
BUS 141	315	17	298	16	298	16	140	07	12	06	147	08	649	30	1859	100
COM 102	377	24	490	31	237	15	46	03	110	07	64	04	236	15	1560	99
HUM 101	373	28	349	26	235	17	35	03	72	05	49	04	213	16	1326	99
BUS 101	253	19	272	21	314	24	113	09	49	04	53	04	252	19	1306	100
SOC 101	243	19	357	28	324	25	103	08	66	05	30	02	150	12	1273	99
MAT 120	244	20	231	19	239	20	75	06	81	07	82	07	255	21	1207	100
SSC 101	251	24	306	29	169	16	52	05	62	06	26	02	184	17	1050	99
COM 103	185	25	297	40	129	17	13	02	21	03	23	03	72	10	740	100
MAT 121	86	17	106	21	113	22	25	05	32	06	44	09	101	20	507	100
PSC 101	76	16	111	24	129	28	51	11	18	04	17	04	67	14	469	101
BUS 142	101	25	72	18	73	18	31	08	5	01	26	06	95	23	403	99
BIO 131	107	29	78	21	64	17	34	09	8	02	24	06	54	15	369	99
Total 15 Course Grade Distribution	4263		4899		3732		1040		805		786		3375		18900	
Total Semester All Course Grade Distribution	12906		12985		9330		2533		2656		3769		8253		52432	

a. Other - included letter grades V, W, and T
b. Ranks run from number 1 to number 15

Summary: A 4 semester examination of the grade distributions of 19 heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses which appeared on semester lists of the 15 most heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses revealed wide variations in grade distribution. Some courses were consistently "easy", while others were consistently "hard"; criteria used were the proportion of As, Bs, combined A + B grades, contrasted with the proportion of Cs, Rs, and Xs. C grades were consistently underused.

Questions raised include the following: 1) where the combined proportion of As and Bs exceeds 50% of those enrolled in a baccalaureate course, are the A-- "Excellence"-- and B -- "Good" -ness relative to a) percent of the material presented which was learned, or b) the other students in the class? If the former criterion is chosen, then attention probably needs to be paid to the content aspects of the course, if the latter, then attention probably needs to be paid to the placement of students in the course, and new strategies, such as enrichment perhaps deserve consideration. 2) Where grades are so high, how can one reconcile Oakton performance with performance of the same students at other postsecondary institutions? Oakton each semester has healthy lists of Honor students; Oakton does not appear to produce Honors graduates of baccalaureate status. It is a truism in education that the best predictor of future success is past success, to which we add, except it isn't.

Other questions could be formulated. This report documents the need for digestion of the 2 year data relative to the heavily enrolled baccalaureate courses, followed by open discussion of the question of enrollments, grade distributions and where Oakton wishes to be regarding these relationships and their implications.

Emily B. Kirby, Ph. D.
Director of Instructional Research and Evaluation

EBK/sas

Appendix A

Table 1

Most Heavily Enrolled Baccalaureate Courses By Rank
Spring Semester, 1977

Course	Rank
Composition (COM 102)	1
Composition (COM 101)	2
Introduction to Psychology (PSY 101)	3
Principles of Accounting (BUS 141)	4
Psychology of Personal Growth (PSY 107)	5
Introduction to Sociology (SOC 101)	6
Modern Culture and the Arts (HUM 101)	7
Introduction to Business (BUS 101)	8
Intermediate Algebra (MAT 120)	9
Principles of Accounting (BUS 142)	10
Individual in Modern Society (SSC 101)	11
Effective Speech (COM 103)	12
College Algebra (MAT 121)	13
American Government (PSC 101)	14
Human Anatomy and Physiology (BIO 132)	15

Appendix A

Table 11

Most Heavily Enrolled Baccalaureate Courses By Rank
Fall Semester, 1976

Course	Rank
Composition (COM 101)	1
Principles of Accounting (BUS 141)	2
Introduction to Psychology (PSY 101)	3
Psychology of Personal Growth (PSY 107)	4
Introduction to Business (BUS 101)	5
Modern Culture and the Arts (HUM 101)	6
Individual in Modern Society (SSC 101)	7
Introduction to Sociology (SOC 101)	8
Intermediate Algebra (MAT 120)	9
Composition (COM 102)	10
Human Anatomy and Physiology (BIO 131)	11
Principles of Economics (ECO 201)	12
Effective Speech (COM 103)	13
Business Law (BUS 201)	14
American Government (PSC 101)	15

Appendix A

Table 111

Most Heavily Enrolled Baccalaureate Courses By Rank
Spring Semester, 1976

Course	Rank
Composition (COM 101)	1
Composition (COM 102)	2
Psychology of Personal Growth (PSY 107)	3
Introduction to Psychology (PSY 101)	4
Principles of Accounting (BUS 141)	5
Introduction to Sociology (SOC 101)	6
Modern Culture and the Arts (HUM 101)	7
Introduction to Business (BUS 101)	8
Intermediate Algebra (MAT 120)	9
Effective Speech (COM 103)	10
Principles of Accounting (BUS 142)	11
Individual in Modern Society (SSC 101)	12
American Government (PSC 101)	13
Business Law (BUS 201)	14
College Algebra (MAT 121)	15

Appendix A

Table iv

Most Heavily Enrolled Baccalaureate Courses By Rank
Fall Semester, 1975

Course	Rank
Composition (COM 101)	1
Psychology of Personal Growth (PSY 107)	2
Introduction to Psychology (PSY 101)	3
Principles of Accounting (BUS 141)	4
Modern Culture and the Arts (HUM 101)	5
Introduction to Business (BUS 101)	6
Intermediate Algebra (MAT 120)	7
Individual in Modern Society (SSC 101)	8
Introduction to Sociology (SOC 101)	9
Composition (COM 102)	10
Human Anatomy and Physiology (BIO 131)	11
College Algebra (MAT 121)	12
Effective Speech (COM 103)	13
Principles of Economics (ECO 201)	14
Introduction to Philosophy (HUM 107)	15

UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES

FEB 24 1978

CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGES